(c) All the villages in the country including that of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are to be electrified by 2009 as per guidelines issued under RGGVY.

Electrification of villages in Jharkhand

†857. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of electrified villages at the time of formation of Jharkhand State *i.e.* on 15th November, 2000;

(b) the number of villages electrified after 5 years of constitution of the State along with those un-electrified till date;

(c) the amount released by Central Government to the State of Jharkhand under this programme during the last five years;

(d) whether Government are satisfied with the progress of the rural electrification; and

(e) if not, what steps are being taken to expedite the pace of rural electrification?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The number of electrified villages at the time of formation of Jharkhand State *i.e.* on 15th November, 2000 is 5108 as per the information given by Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB).

(b) The number of villages electrified after five years of the constitution of the state is 9239 as per information given by JSEB and the number of un-electrified villages as on date is approximately 20,000.

(c) Rs. 575.52 crore have been released by Central Government to Jharkhand state during the last five years under various Rural Electrification schemes namely Minimum Needs Programme, Rural Electrification component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana and Kutir Jyoti.

(d) and (e) (i) With a view to expedite rural electrifiction programme in the country including Jharkhand, Government of India has introduced "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" (RGGVY) in April 2005 for rural electricity infrastructure and household electrification. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy will be provided for Rural Electrification projects Balance 10% will be loan assistance on soft terms by Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. The scheme *inter-alia* provides for financing of electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in all rural habitations in the country with 100% capital subsidy.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Rural Electrification Corporation is the nodal agency for the scheme.

(iii) Prior commitment of the States for deployment of franchisees for management of rural distribution projects, providing requisite revenue subsidy to the State utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003 and to make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households.

(iv) The services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been offered to the states for assisting them in the execution of Rural Electrification Projects as per their willingness and requirement.

Out of 22 districts of Jharkhand, services of CPSUs National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) have been availed in 16 districts. However, no proposal has been received till date from Jharkhand state under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY).

Waive off taxes on LNG used for power plants

858. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has submitted any proposal to the Finance Ministry to waive off customs duty and sales tax on LNG used for power plants;

(b) what is the present rate of customs duty and sales tax on LNG;

(c) the details of the proposal;

(d) whether any response from the Finance Ministry has been received; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) As part of annual exercise to furnish the suggestion of the Ministry for modification in Direct and Indirect Taxes structure for inclusion in Budget 2005-06 an item on (i) Tax Incentives of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Naphtha and (ii) Reduction of Central Sales Tax on LNG/Natural Gas/Naphtha was made to Ministry of Finance.

(b) Present levy of Customs Duty on LNG is 5%. Sales Tax/VAT on LNG/Natural Gas varies from state to state.